GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:512
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2001
UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM
MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have formulated any concrete scheme to remove backwardness and unemployment problem in rural areas of Bihar and other backward States;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF PLANNING, STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a): Concrete schemes to remove backwardness and unemployment problem in the country including Bihar and other backward states have been formulated. Important among them are Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Jawahar Gram Smaridhi Yojana (JGSY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), rural housing scheme i.e. Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), area development programmes viz. Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and Annapoorna. These schemes are being implemented in Bihar along with other States.

(b): Salient features of these schemes are Annexed.

(c) & (d): Beneficiary-oriented Schemes are implemented on the basis of certain criteria. Depending on requirements, scheme-specific surveys or exercises for collection of information are undertaken to establish eligibility according to the criteria.

Planning Commission (Rural Development Division)

Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)

The Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and allied programmes alongwith Million Wells Scheme (MWS) have been restructured into single self-employment programme called the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) with the following primary objectives with effect from 1.4.1999.

- Focussed approach to poverty alleviation
- Capitalising advantages of group lending
- Overcoming the problems associated with multiplicity of programmes

SGSY is conceived as a holistic programme of micro enterprises covering all aspects of self employment viz; organization of the rural poor into Self Help Groups (SHGs) and their capacity building, planning of activity clusters, infrastructure build up, technology, credit and marketing. It integrates various agencies − District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs), banks, line departments, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and other semi- government organizations. The SGSY aims at establishing a large number of micro enterprises in the rural areas with an emphasis on the `cluster` approach. The objective of SGSY is to bring the existing poor families above the poverty line in three years by providing them income-generating assets through a mix of bank credit and Government subsidy. The SGSY is a credit-cum-subsidy programme, with credit as the critical component and subsidy as a minor and enabling element.

The programme is designed to provide proper support and encouragement to tap the inherent talents and capabilities of the rural poor. It will target the most vulnerable among them. At least, 50% of the Swarozgaris will be SCs/STs, 40% women and 3% disabled.

Subsidy under SGSY would be uniform at 30% of the project cost subject to a ceilingof Rs.7,500 (for SCs/STs it would be 50% and Rs.10,000 respectively). For Self Help Groups (SHGs), subsidy would be 50% of the project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs.1.25lakh. There will be no limit on the subsidy for irrigation projects.

Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY)

The Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY)has been strengthened and restructured as JGSYwith effect from 1st April 1999. The primary objective of JGSY is creation of demand drivencommunity village infrastructure including durable assets at the village level to enable the rural poor to increase the opportunities for sustained employment. The secondary objective is generation of supplementary employment for the unemployed poor in the rural areas. The wage employment under the programme is given to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. Thewage material ratio of 60:40 can be suitably relaxed so as to enable the building up of demand driven rural infrastructure.

As per JGSY guidelines, 22.5% of the annual allocation must be spent on individualbeneficiary schemes for SCs/STs. Diversion of funds meant for SCs/STs to other works is not permitted. The following works should be given priority. Infrastructure for SCs/STs habitations Infrastructure support for Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)Community infrastructure for education and health; and Other social, economic and physical infrastructure. Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS)

>From 1st April 1999, the programme has been restructured as a single wage employment programme. The primary objective of the EAS is creation of additional wageemployment opportunities during the period of acute shortage of wage employment through manual work for the rural poor living below the poverty line. The secondary objective is the creation of durable community, social and economic assets for sustained employment and development.

EAS is open to all the rural poor who are in need of wage employment. Since the programme is self targeting in nature and only the minimum wages are to be paid, it is expected that only persons below the poverty line would come for the unskilled work. While providing employment, preference is given to SCs/STs and parents of child labour withdrawn from the hazardous occupations who are below the poverty line.

Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)

The IAY continues to be the most important Centrally Sponsored housing scheme forproviding dwelling units free of cost to the rural poor living below the poverty line at the unit cost of Rs.20,000/- in plain areas and Rs.22,000/- in the hilly/difficult areas.

The objective of IAY is to provide dwelling units free of cost to the Scheduled Castes(SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) and freed bonded labourers and non - SCs/STs living below poverty line in rural areas. From 1995-96, the IAY benefits have been extended to the widows or next of kin of defence personnel killed in action. Benefits have also been extended to ex-servicemen and retired members of para military forces as long as they fulfill the normal eligibility condition of IAY. 3 per cent of funds are reserved for benefit of disabled below the poverty line in rural areas. However, the benefit to non - SCs and STsshall not be more than 40% of IAY allocation.

The above-mentioned Centrally Sponsored Schemes are implemented on cost sharingbasis between the Centre and States in the ratio of 75:25.

Under these Centrally Sponsored Schemes except Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), fundsto the States are allocated on the basis of proportion of rural population in a State to the total rural poor in the country. From States to Districts, funds are allocated on the basis of index of backwardness worked out on the basis of proportion of SC/ST population of the districtand the inverse of agriculture production per agricultural worker.

Under IAY funds are allocated to States/UTs on the basis of poverty ratios as approved by the Planning Commission and rural housing shortage figures drawn from 1991 Census on the basis of equal weightage of 50:50. Similarly, allocation from State to districts have been made on the basis of proportion of SC/ST population and housing shortage.

Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP):The area development programmes viz; Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), and Integrated Wastelands DevelopmentProgramme (IWDP) being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development on watershed basis since 1995-96. DPAP aims at to minimize the adverse effects of drought on production of crops and livestock and productivity of land, water and human resources ultimately leading to the drought proofing of the affected areas. It also aims at promoting overall economic development and improving the socio-economic conditions of the resource poor and disadvantaged sections inhabiting the programme areas. During the Ninth Five Year Plan,the programme covers 961 blocks of 180 districts in 16 States namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, MadhyaPradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttranchal and West Bengal.

Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP): IWDP was started in 1988-89 by Ministry of Environment & Forests with an objective of development of wasteland based on village / micro watershed plans. However, the scheme was transferred to the Department of Wastelands Development (now called DOLR) during 1992-93. The stakeholders preparethese plans after taking into consideration the capability of land, site conditions and local needs. Promoting the overall economic development and improvement of economic condition of the resources poor and disadvantaged section of inhabitants. The projects under IWDP arebeing implemented in districts of the country.

IWDP is a 100 per cent Central Sector scheme.The cost norm is Rs 4000 per hectare. The basic objective of this scheme is to take up integrated wastelands development based on village/micro watershed plans. The stakeholders prepare these plans after taking into consideration land capability, site conditions and local needs. The scheme also helps in generation of employment in rural areas besides enhancing people`s participation in the wastelands development programmes at all stages. This leads to equitable sharing of benefits and sustainable development.

The major activities taken up under the scheme are: -
(i) soil and moisture conservation measures like terracing, bunding, trenching, vegetative barriers etc;
(ii) planting and sowing of multi purpose trees, shrubs, grasses, legumes and pasture land development;

(iii) encouraging natural regeneration;
(iv) promotion of agro-forestry and horticulture;
(v) wood substitution and fuel wood conservation measures;
(vi) measures needed to disseminate technology; training, extension and creation of greater degree of awareness among the participants; and
(vii) encouraging people`s participation. The programme is being implemented in 222 districts in 25 States of the country.

National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP)

It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme which aims at to extend financial assistance to theold destitutes, poorest of the poor and families below the poverty line. Under it 100% Central assistance is provided to States / UTs. The programme has three components, namely,
(i) National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) –financial assistance of Rs. 75 per month per beneficiary is provided to individuals in the age of 65 years or more having little or no regular means of subsistence.
(ii) National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS)– financial assistance to the tune of Rs. Rs.10,000is provided in case of death of a primary bread winner (in age of 18 to less than 65 years) due to natural or accidental causes; and
(iii) National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS) benefit is provided in form of cash assistance of Rs. 500 to the pregnant women of household below the poverty line for upto first two live births provided they are of 19 years of age and above.

Annapurna:

Annapurna scheme aims at providing food security to indigent senior citizens who have no income of their own and none to take care of them in the villages. The scheme envisages provision of 10 kg. of foodgrains per month, free of cost, to over 13 lakh senior citizens who are eligible for old age pension but are, at present, not receiving it. The Gram Panchayats would identify, prepare and display a list of such persons after giving wide publicity.